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January 17, 2003

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

**Re: Ex Parte Communication Regarding Statutory Authority To Grant Extension
of Time For A Petition For Reconsideration, CC Docket No. 96-128.**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On Friday, January 17, 2002, I had a conversation with Jeffrey Carlisle of the Common Carrier Bureau on whether the Commission has statutory authority to grant an extension of time to consider a petition for reconsideration. Mr. Carlisle asked me for citations relevant to this issue. The attached letter discusses the Commission's authority to grant an extension of time to a petition for reconsideration. It also discusses the obligation of the Commission to consider WorldCom's simultaneously- filed petition for rescission.

Sincerely,

Larry Fenster

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